



Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District
401 Water Street
Waterville, ME 04927

January 6, 2011

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Ref: "Implementing Product Stewardship in Maine"
By e-mail to: carole.a.cifrino@maine.gov

Attn: Carole Cifrino and Committee Members

I, as Superintendant of Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District, Waterville Maine and Maine's third largest municipal wastewater treatment facility am strongly urging your support to adopt the "Implementing Product Stewardship in Maine" as proposed by Department of Environmental.

I have been intimately involved in the treatment of sewage in four of Maine's facilities since 1975. I have seen what people flush down the toilets, because various types of wastewater treatment equipment remove items in a manner, which allows you to see these various products.

I have *repeatedly seen* these products such as described in this report. These visual confirmations are a minuscule amount of a total that *is not seen*. I fear for my *staff's safety* when we physically remove wastewater products, which plug pumps, and collect on process equipment. My concern is increased when I find various types of *medical sharps* inter-twined in the waste that the staff uses their hands to dislodge.

I am always amazed when we see handful's of un-dissolved medical pills floating or collecting in process equipment. Again, these sightings are only a small sample of the total, most going unseen.

Over the years, I have received calls from the public asking where to disposal of these various products. In the early years, I encountered a political response which was "just don't dump it down the sewer" and no other disposal option existed. Recently, the communities we serve have held *annual* collections of Household Hazardous Wastes. Even with the small amount of people

delivering their wastes to these *once a year* collections the volumes collected are huge. I cannot even guess at what volume would be collected if 100% of all Maine's homes participated. This report also demonstrates many of Maine's people want to do the right thing by properly disposing of their wastes, but as I have explained, we at the local wastewater facility are seeing what is not collected.

KSTD tests its 8 million gallons a day flow for many chemical compounds in the raw sewage and treated discharges to the Kennebec River. We also perform analysis on the Bio-solids, which is composted. The tests do not include medical waste scans.

Yes, we can expend more funds to determine levels of medical wastes or other products as listed in this report. Nevertheless, please let us go back to the original, 1971 Clean Water Act requirement. That is "Pollution Prevention" works better for all, both in cost effectiveness and for *Maine's clean waterways*. I know the pharmaceutical and other manufacturers of these products will fight legislation of this type with all their strength. We as wastewater treatment plant operators should not need another Love Canal pollution scenario to make us learn that what we *see each day* in *Maine's sewage treatment facilities* should be removed and not deposited in the waste water system and ultimately our waterways.

Please support "Implementing Product Stewardship in Maine".

With great concern,

Timothy J. LeVasseur

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Superintendent

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